IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously presented) The printing blanket of claim 22 wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers, nylon polyester, polyurethane, and polyethylene.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) The printing blanket of claim 22 including an intermediate compressible layer positioned between said base ply and said surface layer.

5. (Original) The printing blanket of claim 4 including a reinforcing ply positioned between said compressible layer and said surface layer.

6. (Original) The printing blanket of claim of claim 4 including a reinforcing ply positioned between said base ply and said compressible layer.

7. (Previously presented) The printing blanket of claim 22 wherein said polymer extends over substantially the entire second surface of said base ply.

8. (Previously presented) The printing blanket of claim 22 wherein said polymer includes corrosion inhibiting additives therein and/or thereon.

9. (Previously presented) The printing blanket of claim 22 wherein said polymer is in the form of a multi-layer laminate including at least one corrosion inhibiting film layer.

Claims 10-20 (Cancelled)

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21. (Previously presented) A protective polymeric film for use on the surface of a metal base ply of a printing blanket which contacts a printing blanket cylinder, wherein said polymer is in the form of a multi-layer laminate comprising two or more polymer layers including at least one corrosion-inhibiting, non-permeable polymeric film layer therebetween, said corrosion-inhibiting polymeric film layer containing corrosion inhibiting additives.

22.(Previously presented) A printing blanket for reducing corrosion and abrasion of printing blankets and blanket cylinders comprising at least one base ply comprised of metal having first and second major surfaces, a printable surface layer on said first surface of said base ply, and a protective polymer in the form of a film or sheet which is adhered to the second surface of said base ply with an adhesive for reducing corrosion of said base ply, said polymer having a thickness of at least 0.0013 cm.

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